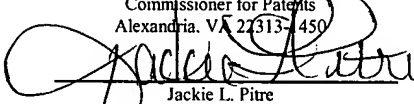




**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/693,818  
Confirmation No.: 1103  
Filing Date: October 24, 2003  
Inventors: Vinegar et al.  
Title: STAGED AND/OR  
PATTERNED HEATING  
DURING IN SITU THERMAL  
PROCESSING OF A  
HYDROCARBON  
CONTAINING FORMATION

Examiner: G. A. Suchfield  
Art Unit: 3672  
Atty. Dkt. No.: 5659-21500/EBM

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING  
 UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8  
 DATE OF DEPOSIT: Dec 6, 2005  
 I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with  
 the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first  
 class mail on the date indicated above and is addressed to:  
 Commissioner for Patents  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-450  
  
 Jackie L. Pitre

**COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE  
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P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

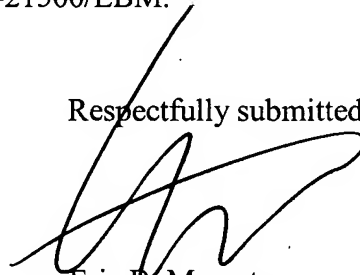
Sir:

Accompanying the Notice of Allowability mailed November 15, 2005, the examiner included an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance. The examiner stated: "The primary reason for the allowance of claims 206-208, 210-227, 229-240, and 1692-1693 is that none of the references cited, taken either singly or in combination, teach or disclose a method of treating a hydrocarbon containing formation, as in the claimed combinations, including the representative step or limitation in claim 206 wherein "the first volume, second volume and third volume are sized, shaped and/or located to inhibit deformation of subsurface equipment caused by geomechanical motion of the formation during heating". Applicant believes that claim 1691 was mistakenly left out of the claim number recital. Applicant believes that claim 1691 is allowable because none of the references cited, taken either singly or in combination, teach or disclose the method for treating a hydrocarbon containing formation, as in the claimed combination.

Inventors: Vinegar et al.  
Appl. Ser. No.: 10/693,818  
Atty. Dckt. No.: 5659-21500

Applicant believes that no fees are due in association with the filing of this paper. If any fees are required, please appropriately charge those fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account Number 50-1505/5659-21500/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



Eric B. Meyertons  
Reg. No. 34,876  
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Date: Dec 6, 2005